

Application No. 09/934,640
Paper dated October 17, 2003
In reply to USPTO Correspondence of June 18, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 3419-011158

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 28-31 and 47 are allowed. Claims 41, 43, 44 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) for obviousness over JP 56-71,595. Claims 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) for obviousness over JP 54-69,537 in view of United States Patent Nos. 4,369,911 to Blumenberg or 4,550,872 to Ohnishi.

In response, claims 41 and 48 were cancelled and new claims 49 and 50 were added. Claims 42-44 have been amended to depend from claim 49. In view of these amendments, claims 42-44, 49 and 50 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

New claim 49 is similar to cancelled claim 41 with the exception of adding method limitations directed specifically to a recuperator unit. New claim 50 is similar to cancelled claim 48 with the exception of adding method limitations directed specifically to a recuperator unit. Support for the additional subject matter can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. (See Fig. 14 and page 14 of the specification.) No new matter has been added. Claims 49 and 50 also are clearly patentable over the cited prior art of record.

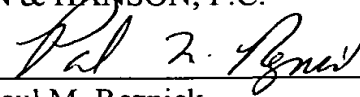
Claims 42-44 have been amended to depend from claim 49. They too are patentable over the cited prior art of record for at least the same reasons claim 49 is patentable.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims 28-31, 42-44, 47, 49 and 50 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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